Case 2:21-cv-0473@1\(\frac{1}{2}\) TD COVEDR1SHIERT 0/27/21 Page 1 of 14

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANT	rs				
Timothy Johnson			North Italia, FRC Balance, LLC, The Food Kitchen, Geoff					
ilmothy Johnson			Allen c/o North Italia					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Montgomery			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Montgomery					
	f First Listed Plaintiff Montgomery (CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		County of Resider		U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES OF			
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					INVULVED.			
	Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Know	wn)				
	perg, 815 Greenwood Ave., Ste. 22							
Jenkintown, PA	19046							
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Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)				of Business In A	nomer State		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	in the description of cause.	nt in employ	ment					
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VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ JURY DEMAND: Yes No								
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER								
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD								
10/27/21								
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Case 2:21-cv-04736UNETEDSTATES DISTRICT COURT 27/21 Page 2 of 14 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM
the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate catendar)					
Address of Plaintiff: 1110 WEST AIRY ST., NORRESTOWN, PA 19401					
Address of Defendant: 350 MALL BLUD., STE. 1000C, KING OF PRUSIA, PA 19906					
Address of Defendant: 350 MALL BLUD., STE. 1000C, KING OF PRUSIA, PA 19406 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 350 MALL BLUD., STE 1000C, KING OF PRUSSIA,					
PA 1°406					
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:					
Case Number: Judge: Date Terminated:					
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:					
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year Yes No No					
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Yes No No No					
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?					
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No No					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.					
DATE: 10/27/21 (Aust sign here 60643					
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)					
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)					
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:					
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA					
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases Please specify): ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION					
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Labor-Management Relations 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify):					
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases Please specify): ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)					
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA					
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA					

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

TIMOTHY JOHNSON

1116 West Airy Street

Norristown, PA 19401

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED Plaintiff,

V.

NORTH ITALIA

COMPLAINT 350 Mall Boulevard, Suite 1000C

King of Prussia, PA 19406

and

FRC Balance, LLC

4455 E. Camelback Road, Ste. A

Phoenix, AZ 85018

and

THE FOOD KITCHEN

4455 E. Camelback Road, Ste. A

Phoenix, AZ 85018

and

GEOFF ALLEN c/o NORTH ITALIA

350 Mall Boulevard, Suite 1000C

King of Prussia, PA 19406

Defendants,

CIVIL ACTION NO.:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT I.

Plaintiff, Timothy Johnson (hereinafter "Plaintiff") brings this action under the 1. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. ("Title VII"); the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §954 et seq. ("PHRA"); Pennsylvania Common Law and for gender discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation in exercising his rights under the aforementioned statutes. Plaintiff seeks equitable relief, compensatory damages, costs and attorney fees from Defendants for Defendants' discriminatory practices and other tortuous actions.

III. THE PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff is an adult individual and a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania currently residing at the above-captioned address.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant, North Italia, is a corporation or other duly organized business, that maintains a principal place of business at the above-captioned address and is licensed and authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in the City and County of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Defendant, FRC Balance, LLC is a corporation or other duly organized business, that maintains a principal place of business at the above-captioned address and is licensed and authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in the City and County of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 5. Upon information and belief, Defendant, The Food Kitchen is a corporation or other duly organized business, that maintains a principal place of business at the above-captioned address and is licensed and authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in the City and County of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 6. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Geoff Allen is a an individual, who at all times material hereto was employed by the Defendant, North Italia, as an executive chef.
- 7. At all times material hereto, Defendants acted individually, and/or through their agents, representatives, servants and/or employees, ostensible or otherwise, who were then and there engaged in Defendants' business and acting within the scope of their agency, servitude and/or employment on behalf of Defendants.

8. At all times material hereto, the conduct of Defendants as enumerated within this Complaint occurred within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City and County of Montgomery, Pennsylvania.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 9. Jurisdiction over this action is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 28 U.S.C. §1343.
- 10. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391.
- 11. At all times material hereto, Defendants were "engaged in an industry affecting commerce" as defined in the Labor Management Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. 142 (1) and (3).
- 12. At all times material hereto, Defendants employed more than fifty (50) employees.
- 13. At all times material hereto, Defendants were an "employer" as defined by Title VII.
- 14. At all times material hereto, Defendants were an "employer" as defined by the ADA.
- 15. At all times material hereto, Defendants were an "employer" as defined by §§4 and 5 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §954 et seq.
- 16. At all times material hereto, Defendants aided and abetted the pervasive interference, discrimination, hostile work environment and harassment that Plaintiff was subjected to during the course and scope of her employment.
- 17. Plaintiff filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment

 Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), and a subsequent Amended Charge of Discrimination,

claiming discrimination based on Gender discrimination and Sexual Harassment under Title VII, retaliation and violation of Pennsylvania Statutory Law under the PHRA.

- 18. The EEOC charge enumerated *supra* was filed concurrently with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission ("PHRA").
- 19. Plaintiff has complied with all jurisdictional prerequisites and a Notice of Rights was issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission with respect to Plaintiff's Charge of Discrimination and Amended Charge of Discrimination on August 4, 2021. (Attached hereto as Exhibit "A").
- 20. Venue in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is proper as at all times material hereto the events complained of and violations of the enumerated statues and laws were committed within the City and County of Montgomery, Pennsylvania which is within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

III. FACTUAL ASSERTION

- 21. Timothy Johnson (hereinafter "Johnson" or "Plaintiff") was hired by the Defendants, North Italia, FRC Balance, LLC and The Food Kitchen (hereinafter, collectively "North Italia Defendants"), as a cook at the North Italia location at the King of Prussia Mall, 350 Mall Boulevard, Suite 1000C, King of Prussia, PA 19046.
- 22. In or about October, 2018. Plaintiff's immediate supervisor was executive chef, Geoff Allen (hereinafter "Allen").
 - 23. Plaintiff reported directly to Allen in the kitchen.
 - 24. In or about June, 2019, Allen caressed Plaintiff's face, without Plaintiff's consent.
- 25. Plaintiff asked Allen not to touch him, and reported the touching incident to Kelly, the Front of House Manager of the restaurant.

- 26. No action was taken by the Defendants regarding the touching incident.
- 27. In or about July, 2019, Allen hugged Plaintiff, once again, touching Plaintiff without his consent.
 - 28. Plaintiff attempted to push Allen off of him while Allen was hugging the Plaintiff.
- 29. On or about August 22, 2019, Allen grabbed the Plaintiff's crotch, and squeezed the Plaintiff's penis.
 - 30. Plaintiff then walked off the line.
- 31. Upon information and belief, Allen has a history of misconduct, which Defendants were aware of, however, took no action.
- 32. Plaintiff was sexually harassed by Allen, and subjected to a hostile work environment as the Defendants permitted the sexual harassment of Plaintiff to be ongoing, and pervasive.
- 33. In or about July, 2020, after reporting the sexual harassment, and filing a charge with the EEOC, Plaintiff was terminated.
- 34. Plaintiff's termination was in direct retaliation for reporting the sexual harassment and filing his charge of discrimination with the EEOC.
- 35. At all times material hereto, the Defendants acted and were responsible for the actions of their agents, assigns, servants and employees.
- 36. At all times material hereto, the Defendants acted by and through the actions of their agents, assigns, servants and employees.
- 37. At all times material hereto, the Defendants were responsible for the actions of their agents, assigns, servants and employees via *respondeat superior*.

COUNT I

TIMOTHY JOHNSON V. NORTH ITALIA, FRC BALANCE, LLC, THE FOOD KITCHEN, and GEOFF ALLEN C/O NORTH ITALIA VIOLATION OF TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq. and Retaliation

- 38. All aforementioned paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 39. The conduct of Defendants' treatment of Plaintiff in his employment and termination violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as the harassment, hostile work environment, retaliation and discrimination that Plaintiff was subjected to was unwelcome, unwarranted, and a clear violation of Title VII.
- 40. Plaintiff was subject to different and negative treatment including retaliation and termination because he refused said sexual harassment.
- Plaintiff was subject to discipline, and was sexually harassed based upon his gender.
- 42. Other, similarly situated male employees of Defendants were not subject to similar gender-based harassment and discrimination.
- 43. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned discrimination and harassment was unwelcome.
- 44. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned discrimination and harassment was severe and pervasive.
- The discrimination, harassment, and hostile work environment, to which Defendants subjected Plaintiff was intentional, with malice and with reckless indifference.
- 46. Plaintiff was subject to different and negative treatment including retaliation and he reported said sexual harassment, and as such was subject to retaliation.

- 47. Defendants by and through its employees, servants and agents were aware of the sexual harassment that the Plaintiff was subjected to at the workplace.
- 48. Defendants by and through its employees, servants and agents were aware of the gender discrimination that Plaintiff was subjected to at the workplace by her coworkers and supervisors.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Timothy Johnson, seeks a determination that the Defendants, North Italia, FRC Balance, LLC, The Food Kitchen and Geoff Allen c/o North Italia, violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and request all damages and relief permitted under the Act including but not limited to:

- (a) back pay and front pay;
- (b) compensatory and punitive damages;
- (c) equitable relief such as reinstatement of a rightful place;
- (d) retroactive relief such as seniority and entitlement;
- (e) injunctive relief included but not limited to barring future discriminatory conduct;
- (f) attorney's fees, expert fees, costs and expenses;
- (g) and such further relief as this court deems just and fair.

COUNT II

TIMOTHY JOHNSON V. NORTH ITALIA, FRC BALANCE, LLC, THE FOOD KITCHEN, and GEOFF ALLEN C/O NORTH ITALIA VIOLATION OF PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT 33 PS 955, ET SEQ.

- 49. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all of the aforementioned paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 50. Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff because he refused the sexual advances of his supervisor and reported said sexual harassment which is in violation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §954, et seq.

- 51. Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff in the terms, conditions and privileges of her employment as Defendants allowed, fostered and subjected Plaintiff to harassment, hostile work environment and retaliation as set forth above.
- 52. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned discrimination and harassment was unwelcome.
- 53. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned discrimination and harassment was severe and pervasive.
- 54. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned discrimination and harassment unreasonably altered the condition of Plaintiff's employment and created a hostile work environment.
- 55. Defendants knew or should have known about the aforementioned discrimination, harassment and hostile work environment to which Plaintiff was subjected during the course of her employment.
- 56. Defendants failed to take prompt, remedial action to eliminate the aforementioned discrimination, harassment and hostile work environment to which Plaintiff was subjected during the course of her employment.
- 57. The discrimination, harassment, hostile work environment and retaliation to which Defendants subjected Plaintiff was intentional, with malice and with reckless indifference.
- 58. Defendants' reasons for disciplining Plaintiff were pretextual to obscure Defendants' discriminatory animus and purpose.
- 59. During the course and scope of Plaintiff's employment, he was subjected to ongoing antagonism.

60. The conduct of Defendants' treatment of Plaintiff in his employment and retaliation violated the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §954, et seq., as Plaintiff's harassment, hostile work environment, retaliation and discharge from employment was based upon gender discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation.

At the time of termination the Defendants by and through its employees, servants and agents was aware of the discrimination and sexual harassment that the Plaintiff was subjected to at the workplace by his supervisor.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Timothy Johnson seeks a determination that the Defendants, North Italia, FRC Balance, LLC, The Food Kitchen and Geoff Allen c/o North Italia violated the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §954, et seq., and requests all damages and relief permitted under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §954, et seq., including but not limited to: back pay and front pay; equitable relief; injunctive relief included but not limited to barring future discriminatory conduct; attorney's fees, expert fees, costs and expenses; punitive damages, and such further relief as this Court deems just and fair.

Respectfully submitted, SAFFREN & WEINBERG

BY:

MARC A. WEINBERG, ESQUIRE

P.A. I.D. 60643

815 Greenwood Avenue, Suite 22

Jenkintown, PA 19046

(215) 576-0100

mweinberg@saffwein.com

Dated: 10/27/21

EXHIBIT "A"

EEOC Farm 161 (11/2020)

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS					
To: Timothy Johnson 1116 West Airy Street Norristown, PA 19401		From:	Philadelphia District Office 801 Market Street Suite 1000 Philadelphia, PA 19107		
		rson(s) aggrieved whose identity is L (29 CFR §1601.7(a))			
EEOC Charge No. EEOC Representative			Telephone No.		
530-2021-	02854	Legal Unit, Legal Technician			(267) 589-9707
THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:					
	The facts alleged in the	charge fail to state a claim under any	of the s	statutes enforced by the	EEOC.
Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.					
The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.					
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge				
X	The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.				
	The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.				
Other (briefly state)					
- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS - (See the additional information attached to this form.)					
Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)					
Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.					
		On behalf of	the Com	mission	
		Dana Rille	illa	_	08/04/2021
Enclosures(s	· ·	Dana R. Hu Deputy Dire			(Date Issued)
С	eggah B. Wilson ONSTANGY, BROOKS 2500 Fair Lakes Circle	S, SMITH & PROPHETE, LLP	SAFF	A. Weinberg, Esq. EN & WEINBERG reenwood Ave	

Suite 300 Fairfax, VA 22030

Jenkintown, PA 19046

EEOC Form 161 (11/2020)

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF IXIGHTS					
1116	thy Johnson West Airy Street stown, PA 19401		From:	Philadelphia District Office 801 Market Street Suite 1000 Philadelphia, PA 19107	
	•	rson(s) aggrieved whose identity is L (29 CFR §1601.7(a))			
EEOC Charge	e No.	EEOC Representative		Telephone No.	
530-2020-	02070	Legal Unit, Legal Technician		(267) 589-9707	
			FOLLO		
THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON: The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.					
Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.					
	The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.				
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge				
X	The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.				
	The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.				
Other (briefly state)					
- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS - (See the additional information attached to this form.)					
Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)					
Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred <u>more than 2 years (3 years)</u> before you file suit may not be collectible.					
		On behalf of t	the Com	nmission	
		Daya R VIII	1/2	08/04/2021	
Enclosures(s	S)	Dana R. Hu Deputy Dire		(Date Issued)	
	eggah B. Wilson ONSTANGY BROOKS	, SMITH & PROPHETE, LLP	Marc	A. Weinberg, Esq. FREN & WEINBERG	

12500 Fair Lakes Circle

Fairfax, VA 22033

Suite 300

815 Greenwood Avenue Suite 22 Jenkintown, PA 19046